

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-35 and add claims 36-46 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A Ccarrier medium (10, 20, 30, 30') for analyzing an analyte, to which at least one biological and/or chemical substances (A through I) are is applied in at least two defined regions (11, 21, 31, 31'), with a code (12, 32, 3') showing which of the at least one biological and/or chemical substance (A through I) is located in which of the at least two defined regions (11, 21, 31, 31').

2. (Currently Amended) The Ccarrier medium according to of Cclaim 1, where characterized in that several hundred biological and/or chemical substances (A through I) are applied in at the corresponding number of the defined regions (11, 21, 31, 31').

3. (Currently Amended) The Ccarrier medium of claim 1, characterized in that where the at least one biological and/or chemical substances (A through I) are is disposed differently in the defined regions (11, 21, 31, 31').

4. (Currently Amended) The Ccarrier medium according to of claim 1, characterized in that where the defined regions (11, 21, 31, 31') are disposed differently on two different carrier media.

5. (Currently Amended) The Ccarrier medium according to of claim 1, characterized in that further comprising a temperature sensor (17, 37) is provided on carrier medium (10, 20, 30, 30').

6. (Currently Amended) The Ccarrier medium according to of claim 1, characterized in that where the code (12, 32, 32') is from the group comprising a bar code, a numeric code, or an alphanumeric code, and the code (12, 32, 32') is given by the arrangement of the defined regions

(21) on the carrier medium (20).

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~C~~carrier medium according to of claim 1, characterized in that where the code (12, 32, 32') provides information for a device (50) reading the carrier medium (10, 20, 30, 30') as to how the device (50) should read which of the defined regions (11, 21, 31, 31').

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~C~~carrier medium according to of claim 1, characterized in that where the code (12, 32, 32') contains information on the expiration date of the carrier medium (10, 20, 30, 30').

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~C~~carrier medium according to of claim 1, characterized in that where the code (12, 32, 32') contains information on the storage of the carrier medium (10, 20, 30, 30') from the time the carrier medium (10, 20, 30, 30') is manufactured until the time it the carrier medium is used.

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~C~~carrier medium according to of claim 1, characterized in that where the carrier medium (10, 20, 30, 30') is composed of a material from the group comprising consists of a film, a glass carrier, or a paper.

11. (Currently Amended) The ~~C~~carrier medium according to of claim 1, characterized in that where the at least one substance is from the group comprising biological substances and chemical substances, and where the group comprising biological substances and chemical substances comprises a substance from the group comprising DNA, RNA, proteins, and or antibodies are used

as the biological and/or chemical substances (A through I).

12. (Currently Amended) A Mmethod for manufacturing a carrier media, comprising the steps of:

a. producing a set of ~~identical~~ carrier media (30) having a first arrangement of at least one physical characteristic of the carrier media~~the defined regions (31) and/or a first arrangement of biological and/or chemical substances within the defined regions (31);~~

b. assigning a different code (32) to each of these carrier media in the set (30);

c. storing the first arrangement of the defined regions (31) and/or the arrangement of the biological and/or chemical substances within the defined regions (31) of the carrier media (30) along with the associated code (32);

d. selecting a second arrangement of the at least one physical characteristic of the carrier media~~defined regions (31), and/or of the biological and/or chemical substances in the defined regions (31),~~ that is different from the first arrangement;

e. implementing steps a through c for the second arrangement; and

f. ~~implementing steps a through c for subsequent arrangements different from the arrangements already previously used.~~

13. (Currently Amended) The Mmethod according to of Cclaim 12, characterized in that where the code (12, 32, 32') represents comprises a simple-numbering of each one of carrier media~~um (10, 30, 30').~~

14. (Currently Amended) The Mmethod according to of Cclaim 12, characterized in that where

the at least one physical characteristic of the carrier media is an arrangement of at least one substance within a defined region on each one of the carrier media, and where the at least one substance is printed within the defined region using the biological and/or chemical substances (A through D) are printed with a print head analogous to that used in an ink jet printing process on the defined regions (11, 21, 31, 31') of carrier medium (10, 20, 30, 30').

15. (Currently Amended) The Mmethod according to of Cclaim 12, characterized in that where
at the set of carrier media comprises~~consists of~~ approximately 1,000 to 10,000 carrier media (30, 30').

16. (Currently Amended) The Mmethod according to of Cclaim 12, characterized in that where
 several hundred sets of the carrier media are manufactured.

17. (Currently Amended) The Mmethod according to of Cclaim 12, characterized in that where
 one carrier medium each is selected from different sets of the carrier media and these selected carrier media are packed together.

18. (Currently Amended) The Mmethod according to of Cclaim 12, characterized in that where
~~several~~ a plurality of the sets of the carrier media are mixed together and the carrier media are randomly selected from the mixed sets of the carrier media for inclusion in a common pack.

19. (Currently Amended) A Ddevice for reading a carrier medium having with at least one optical
 detector per defined region (31)~~on the carrier medium (30)~~, wherein each ~~the~~ optical detectors
 detects ~~the reactions of certain biological and/or chemical substances in the defined regions (31) on~~

~~the an~~ analyte ~~as and~~ provides corresponding signals ~~as soon as when~~ the carrier medium (30) ~~is in~~
has been brought into a read position relative to ~~the~~ device (50).

20. (Currently Amended) ~~The D~~device ~~aeccording to of C~~claim 19, where the carrier medium
includes a code, and where the device characterized in that further comprises means for acquiring
and transmitting the code (32) ~~to a an~~ administrative center ~~are provided~~.

21. (Currently Amended) ~~The d~~Device ~~aeccording to of C~~claim 19, ~~eharakterized in that where~~
the optical detector is a semiconductor chip.

22. (Currently Amended) ~~The D~~device ~~aeccording to of C~~claim 19, ~~eharakterized in that further~~
comprising means for digitizing the detected signals ~~are provided~~.

23. (Currently Amended) ~~The D~~device ~~aeccording to of C~~claim 19, ~~eharakterized in that further~~
comprising means for transmitting the detected signals to the administrative center ~~are provided~~.

24. (Currently Amended) A Mmethod for reading a carrier medium, comprising the steps of:
a. applying ~~an~~analyte to the carrier medium (30), the carrier medium having at least one
defined region;
b. moving the carrier medium (30) ~~into the a~~ read position relative to ~~a the~~ device (50)
for reading the carrier medium (30);
c. transmitting ~~the a~~ code (32) of the carrier medium (30) to an administrative center;
and

d. within the administrative center, evaluating the code (32) and determining ~~the~~ an associated arrangement of the carrier medium.

25. (Currently Amended) ~~The Mmethod according to of Cclaim 24, characterized in that where~~
in step d. the steps of evaluating ~~on of the code (32) and determining~~ ation of the associated
 arrangement within the administrative center are performed by the administrative center at no cost
 and a fee is charged ~~only if an the~~ only if an the analyte has reacted positively to one of certain ~~the biological~~
~~and/or chemical substances (A through I) located in one of the at least one defined region on the~~
carrier medium.

26. (Currently Amended) ~~The Mmethod according to of Cclaim 24, characterized in that where~~
 instructions are transmitted from the administrative center to the reading device (50) as to how ~~the at~~
least one optical detectors ~~is are~~ to be set for the at least one individual ~~defined regions (31)~~.

27. (Currently Amended) ~~The Mmethod according to of Cclaim 24, characterized in that further~~
comprising the step of:
~~as step e.-~~ detecting the reactions of each of the at least one defined regions (31) are detected
~~with the optimally set using the at least one optical detectors and providing a detected signal~~
indicative thereof.

28. (Currently Amended) ~~The Mmethod according to of Cclaim 27, characterized in that further~~
comprising the step of:

f. transmitting the detected signals ~~are transmitted to the administrative center as step f.~~

29. (Currently Amended) The Mmethod according to of Cclaim 28, characterized in that, further comprising the step of:

~~-as step g, -transmitting the associated arrangement of the biological and/or chemical substances (A to I) of the carrier medium (30) and/or the evaluation of the detected signals is/are transmitted from the administrative center to the device, (50) for and reading the transmitted associated arrangement.~~

30. (Currently Amended) The Mmethod according to of Cclaim 24, characterized in that where
step b further comprises the step of detecting according to step b first the reactions of each of the at
least one the defined regions (31) are detected with the using at least one optical detectors of device
(50) and providing a detected signal indicative thereof, and where and in step c further comprises the
step of transmitting additionally the detected signals are transmitted to the administrative center.

31. (Currently Amended) The Mmethod according to of Cclaim 30, characterized in that, as
further comprising the step of:

~~- e, -transmitting the associated arrangement of the biological and/or chemical substances (A through I) of the carrier medium (30) and/or the evaluation of the detected signals are transmitted from the administrative center to the device (50).~~

32. (Currently Amended) The Mmethod according to of Cclaim 247, characterized in that where
instructions are transmitted by the administrative center to reset a certain one of the at least one
defined regions (31) according to the detected signals.

33. (Currently Amended) The Mmethod according to of Cclaim 247, characterized in that where
at the request is sent by the administrative center, in response to the eertain-detected signals, to read
another carrier medium having an associated arrangement biological and/or chemical substances that
is different from the associated arrangement of biological and/or chemical substances on the first
carrier medium after application of the analyte.

34. (Currently Amended) The Mmethod according to of Cclaim 247, characterized in that where
the detected signals and the code (32) for transmittal from the device (50) to the administrative center
is keyed with a public key.

35. (Currently Amended) The Mmethod according to of Cclaim 24, characterized in that where
the transmission of the detected signals and the code (32) to the administrative center is error-
protection-coded.

36. (New) The method of claim 12, where the at least one physical characteristic of the carrier
media is a defined region on each one of the carrier media.

37. (New) The method of claim 12, where the at least one physical characteristic of the carrier
media is an arrangement of at least one substance within a defined region on each one of the carrier
media.

38. (New) The method of claim 37, where the at least one substance is from the group

comprising biological substances and chemical substances, and where the group comprising biological substances and chemical substances comprises a substance from the group comprising DNA, RNA, proteins, and antibodies.

39. (New) The method of claim 12, where the at least one physical characteristic of the carrier media comprises a defined region on each one of the carrier media, and also comprises an arrangement of at least one substance within the defined region.

40. (New) The method of claim 39, where the at least one substance is from the group comprising biological substances and chemical substances, and where the group comprising biological substances and chemical substances comprises a substance from the group comprising DNA, RNA, proteins, and antibodies.

41. (New) The device of claim 19, where the certain substances are from the group comprising biological substances and chemical substances, and where the group comprising biological substances and chemical substances comprises a substance from the group comprising DNA, RNA, proteins, and antibodies.

42. (New) The method of claim 28, further comprising the step of:

g. transmitting the evaluated code of the carrier medium from the administrative center to the device, and reading the evaluated code.

43. (New) The method of claim 30, further comprising the step of:

g. transmitting the evaluated code of the carrier medium from the administrative center to the device.

44. (New) The method of claim 25, where the certain substances are from the group comprising biological substances and chemical substances, and where the group comprising biological substances and chemical substances comprises a substance from the group comprising DNA, RNA, proteins, and antibodies.

45. (New) A carrier medium for use in analyzing an analyte, the carrier medium comprising at least two defined regions, a substance being applied to each one of the at least two defined regions, the carrier medium also having a code stored thereon, the code being indicative of a type of the substance applied to each one of the at least two defined regions and to which one or more of the at least two defined regions that the substance is applied to.

46. (New) The carrier medium of claim 45, where the substance is from the group comprising biological substances and chemical substances, and where the group comprising biological substances and chemical substances comprises a substance from the group comprising DNA, RNA, proteins, and antibodies.